

Articles

Install Daggerfall in DOSBox



Preface

I talked to my roommate about old computer games at the beginning of the week and somehow we came up with the topic DOS games. My absolute favorite was [Capitalism](#). It had ultra bad graphics, but it was super programmed by the economic system. After the conversation I did some research on the internet about DOS games and was quite surprised. On archive.org there is a whole [MS DOS collection](#) that you can play online and so there are almost all games available for download under legal conditions. Then I found the [DOSBox](#), which I didn't know until now. It has been a long time since I worked with Windows and DOS and I switched to Linux very early. Anyway, I found the tutorial. This is written for Windows, but you can easily transfer it to Linux. Since I already played [Skyrim](#), but didn't know the other games from the Elder Scrolls series yet, I looked which parts or predecessors there are still. In this tutorial I describe how to install the Bethesda Softworks game The Elder Scrolls: Chapter II Daggerfall in the DOSBox on the Manjaro OS.

Note

While researching this article, I noticed that the saga begins with [The Elder Scrolls: Arena](#). So I will start with it, because I don't want to receive angry mails or tweets here. Furthermore, I won't explain every single Linux command, who expects further information has to look in the footnotes. The tutorial is written for people who already know a bit about Linux.

Install DOSBox

To start a DOS game at all we need a virtual environment in which the DOS operation system is emulated. But since we work (and play) on Manjaro OS we can easily install it on our operating system thanks to different open source communities. Therefore we open a new terminal with the keyboard combination `mod + enter` and install the required software with `sudo pacman -S dosbox`. That's all we need to work on at this point. I use Linux because I am incredibly lazy.

Change the DOSBox config file

Before we can start installing the game, we need to change two small things in the DOSBox config file. Once we extend our memory size and fix an additional [problem with the mouse pointer](#). If you know it is quite simple. To do this, we change to the installation directory of the DOSBox with `cd ~/.dosbox`. With `ls -l` we display the contents of the directory as a list. To change the contents of the config file, we open it with `vim dosbox-0.74-2.config` with an editor and enter the changes. Please note that the version number of the config file may change at a later time. The two changes are: `autolock=true` is changed to `autolock=false`.

Then change `memsize=16` to `memsize=32`. Then we can save the file. We change with `cd ..` to our root directory and then to our `Download` directory. You are welcome to use another directory here.

Create the dosgames folder and download Daggerfall

Within the `Downloads` directory we create the dosgames folder with `mkdir dosgames`. In this folder we change and download with `wget https://cdnstatic.bethsoft.com/elderscrolls.com/assets/files/tes/extras/DFInstall.zip` the game Daggerfall from the Bethesda source. With `unzip DFInstall.zip` we unpack the archive and delete it with `rm DFInstall.zip`. This saves space on our hard disk. With `mod + d` we start the DOSBox.

```
DOSBox 0.74-2, Cpu speed: 3000 cycles, Frameskip 0, Program: DOSBOX

Welcome to DOSBox v0.74-2

For a short introduction for new users type: INTRO
For supported shell commands type: HELP

To adjust the emulated CPU speed, use ctrl-F11 and ctrl-F12.
To activate the keymapper ctrl-F1.
For more information read the README file in the DOSBox directory.

HAVE FUN!
The DOSBox Team http://www.dosbox.com

Z:\>SET BLASTER=A220 I7 D1 H5 T6

Z:\>
```

First we have to emulate the `dosbox` folder in the `C:` drive. To do this, type `mount c ~/Downloads/dosgames/ -reesize 1000` into the DOSBox window. If in your DOS window the directory names look different than in my screenshots this is normal, I changed the directory links to protect my private data. Please don't get confused and as long as you don't get an error message everything is ok.

```
DOSBox 0.74-2, Cpu speed: 3000 cycles, Frameskip 0, Program: DOSBOX

Welcome to DOSBox v0.74-2

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Z:\>SET BLASTER=A220 I7 D1 H5 T6

Z:\>mount c ~/Downloads/dosgames -reesize 1000
Drive C is mounted as local directory ~/Downloads/dosgames

Z:\>
```

The next step is to emulate the CD-ROM. We do this with the command `mount d ~/Downloads/dosgames/DFInstall/DFCD -t cdrom -label Daggerfall`. If you do not copy the command, but type it, please pay attention to the upper and lower case. DOS is a bit accurate at this point.

DOSBox 0.74-2, Cpu speed: 3000 cycles, Frameskip 0, Program: DOSBOX

```
Welcome to DOSBox v0.74-2

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To adjust the emulated CPU speed, use ctrl-F11 and ctrl-F12.
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For more information read the README file in the DOSBox directory.

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Z:\>SET BLASTER=A220 I7 D1 H5 T6

Z:\>mount c ~/Downloads/dosgames -freesize 1000
Drive C is mounted as local directory ~/Downloads/dosgames

Z:\>mount d ~/Downloads/dosgames/DFInstall/DFCD -t cdrom -label Daggerfall
MSCDEX: Mounted subdirectory: limited support.
Drive D is mounted as CDROM ~/Downloads/dosgames/DFInstall/DFCD/

Z:\>
```

Now we change with **D:** + **Enter** into the D directory and start the Daggefall installation.

DOSBox 0.74-2, Cpu speed: 3000 cycles, Frameskip 0, Program: DOSBOX

```
Welcome to DOSBox v0.74-2

For a short introduction for new users type: INTRO
For supported shell commands type: HELP

To adjust the emulated CPU speed, use ctrl-F11 and ctrl-F12.
To activate the keymapper ctrl-F1.
For more information read the README file in the DOSBox directory.

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The DOSBox Team http://www.dosbox.com

Z:\>SET BLASTER=A220 I7 D1 H5 T6

Z:\>mount c ~/Downloads/dosgames -freesize 1000
Drive C is mounted as local directory ~/Downloads/dosgames

Z:\>mount d ~/Downloads/dosgames/DFInstall/DFCD -t cdrom -label Daggerfall
MSCDEX: Mounted subdirectory: limited support.
Drive D is mounted as CDROM ~/Downloads/dosgames/DFInstall/DFCD/

Z:\>D:

D:\>_
```

Install Daggerfall

Now we just type **INSTALL** into the DOS terminal. Since the screenshots of the Daggerfall installation are self-explanatory, the next commented paragraph comes back when we adjust the sound.

Welcome to DOSBox v0.74-2

For a short introduction for new users type: INTRO
For supported shell commands type: HELP

To adjust the emulated CPU speed, use **ctrl-F11** and **ctrl-F12**.
To activate the keymapper **ctrl-F1**.
For more information read the **README** file in the DOSBox directory.

HAVE FUN!

The DOSBox Team <http://www.dosbox.com>

Z:\>SET BLASTER=A220 I7 D1 H5 T6

Z:\>mount c ~/Downloads/dosgames -freesize 1000
Drive C is mounted as local directory ~/Downloads/dosgames

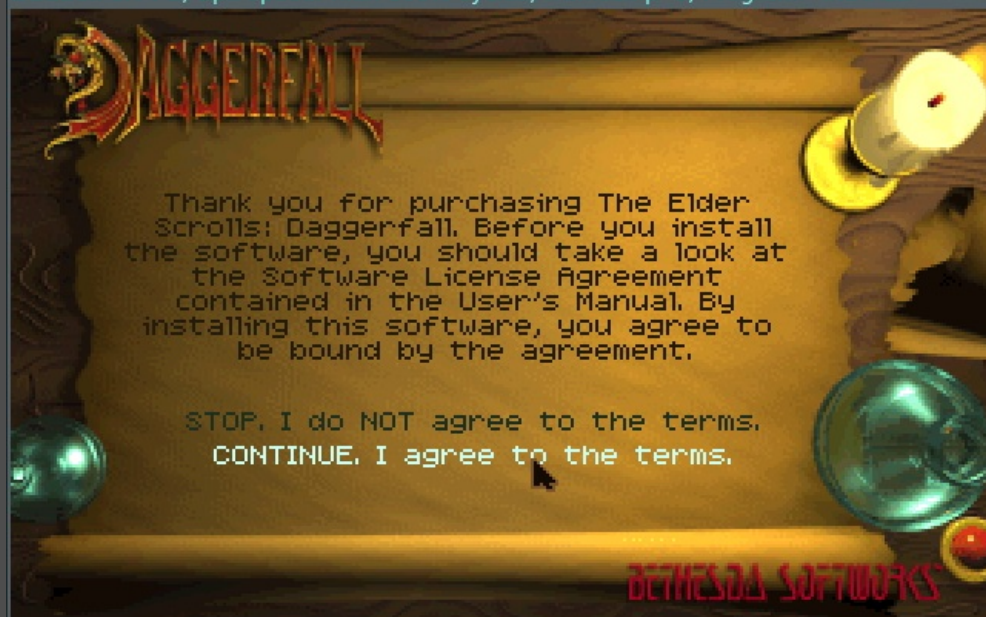
Z:\>mount d ~/Downloads/dosgames/DFInstall/DFCD -t cdrom -label Daggerfall
MSCDEX: Mounted subdirectory: limited support.
Drive D is mounted as CDROM ~/Downloads/dosgames/DFInstall/DFCD/

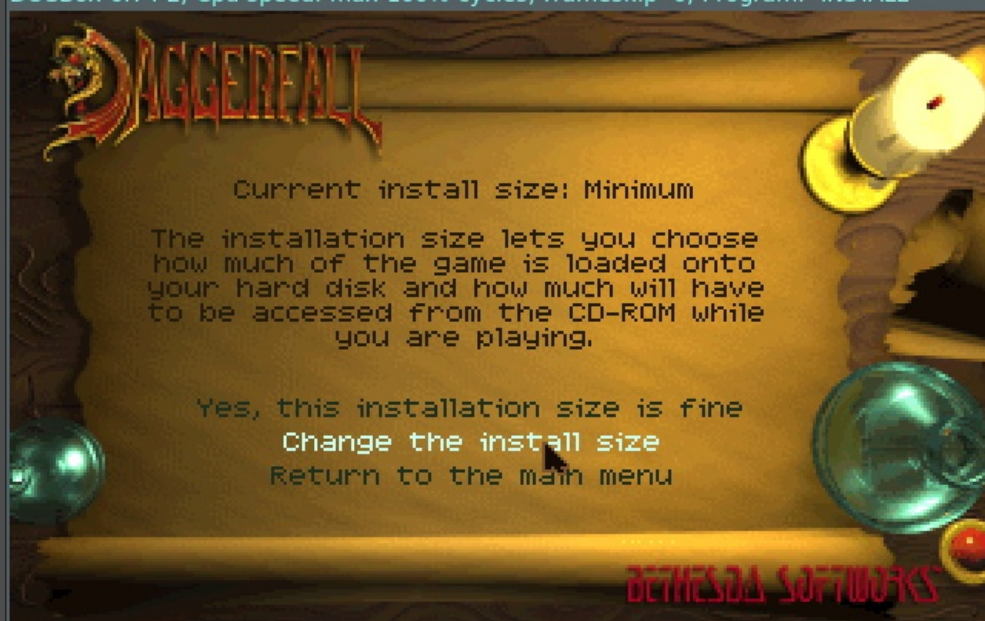
Z:\>D:

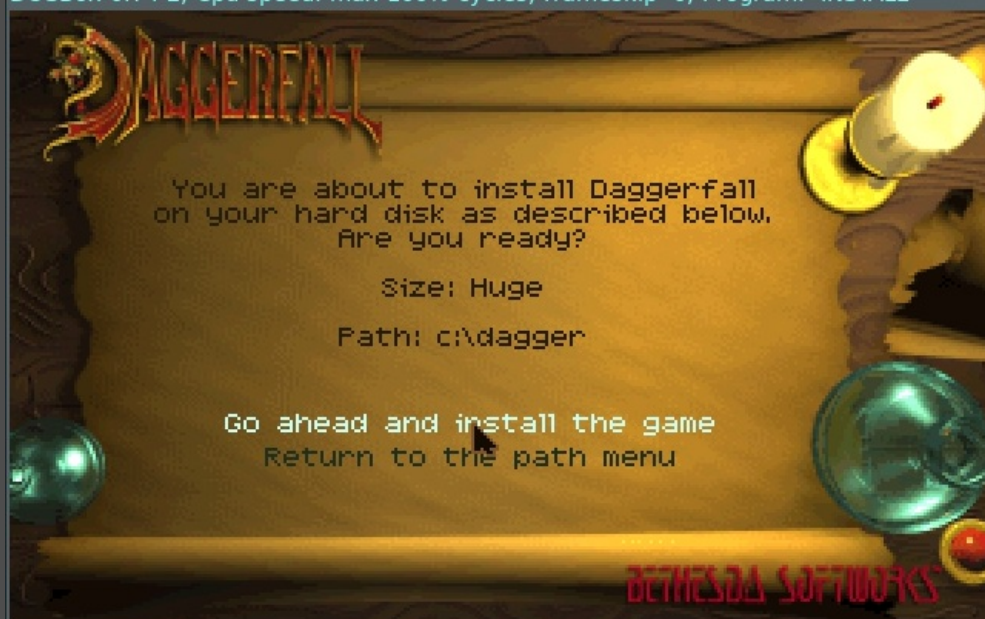
D:\>INSTALL_

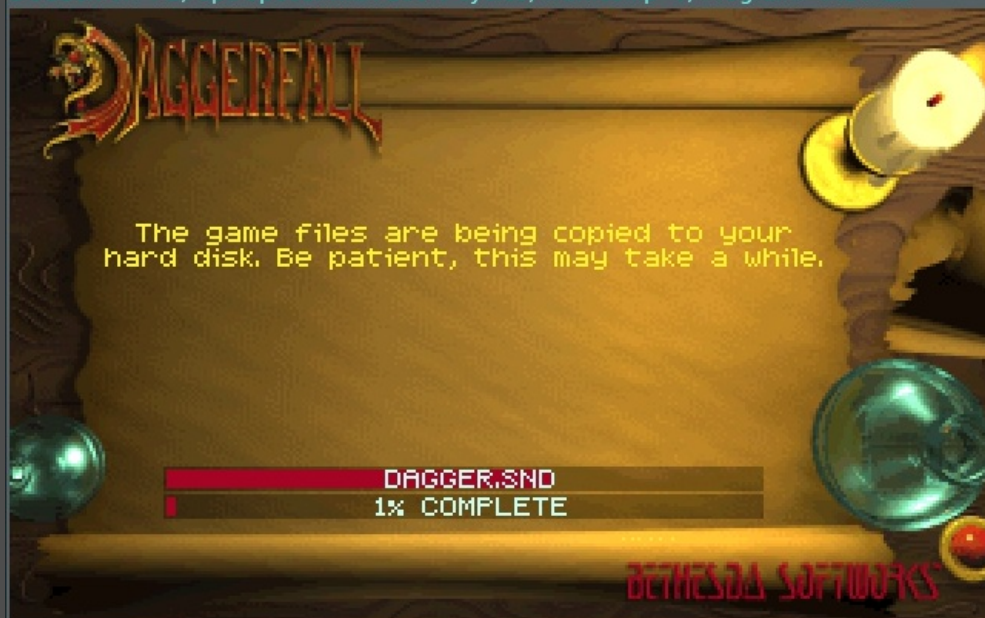
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punishable by law.









At this point we have to adjust the sound for our system. It's always done the same way, so you can just execute the commands I'll show you right away. In the HMI Sound Operation System Setup Utility you can't use the mouse pointer.



Auto Detect > Enter > Detect > Enter > OK > Enter > Test > Enter > Arrow right > OK > Enter > 5x Arrow down > OK > Enter > OK > Enter. If you know the DOS sound settings better than I do, you can of course use your own settings. This *key combination* works fine. After that the installation is finished and we only have to press an OK button one last time and start the game.

DOSBox 0.74-2, Cpu speed: max 100% cycles, Frameskip 0, Program: INSTALL



DOSBox 0.74-2, Cpu speed: max 100% cycles, Frameskip 0, Program: INSTALL



DOSBox 0.74-2, Cpu speed: 3000 cycles, Frameskip 0, Program: DOSBOX

The Elder Scrolls: Daggerfall has been installed.
Please type DAGGER to start the game.

C:\DAGGER>

DOSBox 0.74-2, Cpu speed: max 100% cycles, Frameskip 0, Program: FALL

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SOFTWARES
PRESENTS

DOSBox 0.74-2, Cpu speed: max 100% cycles, Frameskip 0, Program: FALL





Afterwards we can exchange this installation for the world of Elder Scrolls and I am curious if the story will captivate me.